

Descriptive Writing

Four Ways to Paint a Picture With Your Words

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Descriptive writing is about using words that give your readers the **details** they need to **visualize** what you are saying and become a part of your writing.

Here are four tips that will help you
add vivid descriptions
to your writing:

1. Use your five senses.
2. Use figurative language.
3. Have fun with words.
4. Show, don't tell.

1. Using Your Senses

Think about the scene you are describing...

- How does it smell?
- What does it sound like?
- How does it feel?
- What does it look like?
- How does it taste?

You won't always be able to include *all five* senses, but it's a good place to start.

2. Using Figurative Language

Similes or metaphors provide imagery for your readers.

Instead of saying "The bread is hard,"
say "The bread is as hard as a rock."

Personification or hyperbole add interest to inanimate objects.

Instead of saying "My heart started beating fast,"
say "My heart leaped out of my chest."

3. Have Fun with Words

- **synonyms** - writer, wordsmith, scribe
- **heteronyms** - a windy road on a windy day
- **homophones** - she told him and he tolled the bell
- **homonyms** - they tire at the thought of changing the tire
- **capitonyms** - a turkey in Turkey; a march in March
- **oronyms** - four candles, fork handles; realize, real lies; night rain, night train...

4. Show, Don't Tell

This would be **telling** your readers:

"He walked over to the stage and they gave him the award."

This, instead, is **showing** your readers:

"His feet felt like they were walking on air, as he glided toward the stage. An award like this was a dream he could never have imagined coming true."

Your readers will feel like a movie is showing inside their heads, because you gave them all the details they needed to truly "see" it.

The end.

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